

Forced-Unionism Abuses Exposed

The facts Big Labor bosses would rather you didn't hear about.

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Compulsory unionism breeds corruption. In each issue of "Exposed," the National Right to Work Committee will highlight yet another example of union-boss abuse spawned and perpetuated by Big Labor's government-granted privilege to force workers to pay union dues, or be fired.

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Union Hierarchy's #1 Goal in 2009: Make the U.S. 'More Like China'

Early this year, the Communist dictators of China granted extraordinary new privileges to the hierarchy of the Communist Party-controlled All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), while retaining the national prohibition on all unions that are not part of the massive ACFTU.

Under the Chinese government's January 2008 edict, both foreign and domestic companies are now being forced to bargain exclusively with ACFTU union agents over what employees are expected to accomplish, what their working hours are, and a host of other policies. Companies are also being forced to divert 2% of their total payroll expenditures into ACFTU coffers.

Chinese employees have no right to form any union that isn't controlled by the ACFTU, and they have no right, either individually or collectively, to stop ACFTU bosses from getting monopoly-bargaining power at their workplace and taking money out of their wages and benefits.

One might expect American union officials and their allies would condemn this viciously anti-worker policy. Of course, American union bosses openly oppose the individual worker's freedom to bargain for himself and refuse to pay union dues if a majority of his fellow employees want a union. But surely they would at least distance themselves from the tyrannical Chinese policy of handing the ACFTU monopoly-bargaining power in workplaces where the majority of workers want another union, or no union at all?

In the past, American union officials did indeed publicly reject China's Communist Party-controlled unions as illegitimate. But according to Big Labor-friendly academic Aaron Halegua, "U.S. unions . . . are now warming up to the ACFTU." Service Employees International Union chief Andy Stern, for example, views "engaging" the ACFTU hierarchy as "an essential piece of any strategy to

combat corporations on a global scale.” And top AFL-CIO representatives have now also begun a “critical dialogue” with the ACFTU brass.

One prominent Big Labor agent who has been especially effusive in his praise of China’s anti-worker policies is Jonathan Tasini. Today, Mr. Tasini is a pro-forced unionism blogger and a labor consultant who has the bosses of many large unions on his client list. Previously, he headed the National Writers Union and the AFL-CIO front group American Rights at Work.

A September commentary by Mr. Tasini bears the astonishing headline, “When It Comes to Unions, We Should Be More Like China.” In the commentary below, Mr. Tasini lauds the Chinese Communist government for saying “you have to have unions,” and smugly observes: “[I]t’s amazing how quickly companies will move to deal with unions when the government says [they] must.”

Mr. Tasini goes on to say that enactment of the so-called “Employee Free Choice Act,” the top item on Big Labor’s agenda in the upcoming Congress, would be “one step” toward making the U.S. “more like China.” But Organized Labor’s ultimate goal should be a country in which “public leaders . . . stand up and say to companies, ‘unionize now or be seen as an outcast.’”

Jon Tasini’s blog is read by many union officials and union militants. And some of his posts about union politics become the subject of extensive debate in the comments section of his web site. But as this is written, not a single union official has publicly distanced himself or herself from Mr. Tasini’s bizarre “praise” of their pet legislation, which would help Big Labor get monopoly-bargaining power over millions of additional workers.

Evidently, Mr. Tasini’s many readers and clients in the union hierarchy find the slogan “Make America more like China!” to be an acceptable description of their legislative agenda.

Fortunately for American workers and businesses, the vast majority of people in this country do not agree that it should be “more like China.” Specifically, Americans overwhelmingly believe that employees should not be forced by law to join, pay dues to, or be represented by a union in order to get or keep a job. And blocking passage of the cynically mislabeled “Employee Free Choice Act” is critical for keeping American labor policy distinct from China’s and, in the future, sharpening that distinction.

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